

I know that many on this side of the aisle do not agree with all the provisions I have outlined. But I know that many recognize that there is a problem with the way we finance our elections, and are distressed over the public's disdain for the system. It is a problem we must address. So let us do so. Let any senator offer an amendment to our legislation. I may agree with some. I may disagree with others. But by means of the amendment process we may begin building a consensus. Then we can all sit down, in good faith, and do what the people want us to do: come together on a consensus proposal to repair this terribly inequitable, unnecessarily expensive and, at times, corrupt campaign finance system.

This is our opportunity. If we opt for gridlock over results, we will only fuel the cynicism of the American electorate. I hope we will do what is right and take such steps as necessary to pass meaningful campaign finance reform.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, On behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24, the Senate resume consideration of the pending McCain-Feingold amendment. I further ask consent that the time between 10:30 and 12:30 be equally divided between the opponents and proponents. I ask unanimous consent that the time from 2:15 to 4 p.m. be equally divided between the opponents and proponents prior to the motion to table, and, finally, at 4 p.m. the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the pending McCain-Feingold amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:00 noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1270. An act to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read twice and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1270. An act to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3938. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the fiscal year 1999 budget request; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3939. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on military expenditures for countries receiving U.S. assistance; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3940. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3941. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Royalty Management, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3942. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Royalty Management, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3943. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the establishment of a memorial to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3944. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to hazardous air pollutants; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3945. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on February 17, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3946. A communication from the Director of the Office of Rulemaking Coordination, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on January 21, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3947. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General (Legislative Affairs),

transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the establishment of an electronic case management demonstration project; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3948. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on February 17, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3949. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on February 10, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3950. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on February 6, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3951. A communication from the Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on February 18, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3952. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Development Assistance Program allocations for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3953. A communication from the Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to foreign military sales customers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3954. A communication from the Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of loans and guarantees issued under the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3955. A communication from the Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an analysis and description of services performed by full-time USG employees during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a determination relative to assistance to the Government of Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3957. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the allocation of funds for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3958. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on U.S. Government assistance to and cooperative activities with the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3959. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report regarding the economic policies and trade practices of countries with which the U.S. has significant economic or trade relations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3960. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of four notices of the proposed issuance of export licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3961. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report of the